

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stairlift chair including a pair of armrests, each of the said armrests having an upper surface; and a control interface mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest to effect movement of a stairlift on which the stairlift chair is mounted, said chair being characterized in that wherein said control interface is, in normal use, angled upwardly out of the plane of the upper surface of the armrest to which said interface is attached, and has a palm contacting surface which forms a substantial extension of ~~the upper surface of the armrest to which said interface is attached~~ said upper surface.
2. (Currently amended) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control interface is pivotable with respect to said armrest about a substantially vertical axis.
3. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 2 wherein said control interface is constructed and arranged to avoid point loading on a user's palm when in use.
4. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 3 wherein said control interface has a substantially planar upper surface and side surfaces aligned substantially perpendicularly to said upper surface.
5. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one of said armrests has a longitudinal axis, the position of said control interface being adjustable along said longitudinal axis.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control interface embodies a power isolation switch.

8. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The stairlift of claim 1, where the control interface further comprises ~~A manually engageable control interface for mounting on an armrest of a stairlift chair, said interface being characterized in that it is upwardly angled with respect to said armrest, includes a palm contacting surface constructed and arranged to avoid point loading on a user's palm, when in use and includes~~ side surfaces configured to permit smooth contact by the side of a user's hand.

11. (Currently amended) The stairlift of claim 1, ~~An interface as claimed in claim 10~~ wherein said palm contacting surface is constructed and arranged to underlie at least 50% of the area of a user's palm.

12. (Currently amended) A stairlift comprising a stairlift chair, said chair having a pair of armrests; a ~~A manually engageable and displaceable control interface for a stairlift mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest on which it is mounted to effect movement of said stairlift,~~ said interface including a body member engageable by a user's hand ~~when said stairlift is in use, said interface being characterized in that~~ wherein said body member is formed in two parts which are displaceable with respect to one another such that, in a first configuration of said two parts, said control interface is inactive.

13. (original) An interface as claimed in claim 12 wherein, when said body parts are in said first configuration, the resulting form of said body differs visually and/or provides a different tactile sensation to the user's hand than when said body parts are in an operative configuration.

14. (Currently amended) A stairlift comprising: ~~including the chair of claim 1.~~

a stairlift chair including a pair of armrests, each of the said armrests having an upper surface; and a control interface mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest to effect movement of a stairlift on which the stairlift chair is mounted, wherein said control interface is, in normal use, angled upwardly out of the plane of the upper surface of the armrest to which said interface is attached, and has a palm contacting surface which forms a substantial extension of said upper surface.

15. (original) A stairlift assembly including: a rail; a carriage mounted for movement along said rail; drive means within said carriage for driving said carriage along said rail; a chair mounted on said carriage; and at least one hand operated control whereby an occupant of said chair can control the operation of said drive means, said stairlift assembly being characterized in that a sensor is provided to sense when a user is occupying said chair, said sensor being further operable to isolate and energise said hand operated control.

16- 21. (Canceled)